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A C C O U N T
OF SOME OF THE MOST
ROMANTIC PARTS
OF
NORTH WALES.

Craddock (1812)

— Of Antres vast, and Desarts idle,
rough Quarries, Rocks, and Hills, whose Heads touch
Heav'n,
It was my Hint to speak.

SHAKESPEARE.

L O N D O N,
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MDCCLXXVII.

W. Musgrave.

Sir

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of

To

Sir WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNNE,
Bart.

SIR,

EVERY one will see the propriety of dedicating an Account of North Wales to You, who possess so considerable a part of that Country, and yet, Sir, this is not the motive of my Address;—it is from a high

high regard to that public and private Character which has hitherto been an ornament to Society, and which I trust will continue to adorn the Age with those Virtues, of which your Ancestors were such eminent Examples.

I have the Honour to be,

with great respect,

Sir, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH CRADOCK.

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K.

A R M S

O F T H E

PRINCIPALITY.

BRUTE gaue to CAMBER his Third
Sonne, CAMBRIA with theise Armes,
*Tres Leones Gradientes facies suas
ad terga uertentes in Campo Argenteo.*
*In Frenche, Il portoit d'Argent
trois Lions passants regardantes
de Genes.* The which Armes the
Kinges and Prynces of Wales and
theire ofspringe, used for a Longe
tyme after, untill the Country
was deuided into three distant
Pryncypalities viz: North Wales
South Wales and Powes Lande, And
then they tooke seuerall Armes.

Nor





North Wales.



South Wales.



Rwes Land.



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AN
ACCOUNT
OF SOME OF THE MOST
ROMANTIC PARTS
OF
NORTH WALES.

AS every one now who has
either traversed a steep
mountain, or crossed a small
channel, must write his Tour, it
would be almost unpardonable
in me to be totally silent, who

B have

have visited the most uninhabited regions of North Wales—who have seen lakes, rivers, seas, rocks, and precipices, at unmeasurable distances, and who from observation and experience can inform the world, that high hills are very difficult of access, and the tops of them generally very cold.

But ancient Britain has a kind of hereditary claim upon me, and I have the honour to boast of my origin from thence; and as the

nam

name and exploits of my ancestors continually occur through the wild heroic pages of Welsh tale or history.

This journey was undertaken rather late in the autumn 1776 ;

the season proved remarkably favourable, neither rains nor winds impeded my progress—

the air on the mountains was

so rarified by the summer's heat,

the sun shone out all the day

at Cader, and Snowdon had not

B 2 begun

begun to fortify himself against this almost winter approach.

I set out from Shrewsbury for Welsh Poole, — the last eight miles afforded a most beautiful prospect of a rich vale in Montgomeryshire. The Vales throughout this county are remarkably pleasant; but they have been so frequently described, that it is almost superfluous to observe that they abound with corn, and are luxuriant in pasturage.

Wel

Welsh Poole is a place of
 some note—it is one of the five
 Boroughs in Montgomeryshire,
 which jointly send a member to
 Parliament. It has a good mar-
 ket, but though the Severn is
 navigable within two miles of
 it, there is scarce ever any fish
 —even salmon is never under
 twelve pence a pound. It takes
 its name from a contemptible
 black pool, which is said to be
 unfathomable, and of which
 there is a prophecy, that it shall

some time or other overflow and deluge the town. This prophecy is still believed in Wales.

About a mile from hence stands Powis castle, or *Red* castle, from the colour of the stones of which it is built. The situation of it is certainly very noble, but I cannot agree with Lord Lyttelton, that three thousand pounds would make it the most august place in the kingdom: there is much to be done in the mere approach, and at pre-

sent

sent you are obliged to ask
 where the Severn runs. The
 ground is laid out in that
 formal style of gardening, that
 was brought in at the Revolu-
 tion, and there will be much
 difficulty in altering it with
 propriety. A common Under-
 taker in Taste, would imme-
 diately convert the clipped hedges
 and true-love-knots, into a gau-
 dy and unmeaning shrubbery,
 fit to decorate this place to
 advantage, the Genius of this

place only must be consulted, "the
 * parts should every where be
 connected with each other, and
 must likewise bear a reference
 to the whole." On my return
 to Poole, I ordered a carriage to
 convey me to Llanvair—this was
 to be my last stage on known
 ground,—the road was perfectly
 good, the people in general spoke
 English, and their civility was
 remarkable, that the very turn-
 pike man was grateful for the

* Pope.

oll. I was here most strongly
 recommended to a good house,
 about twelve miles distant, but
 found it only a miserable hut;
 therefore pressed onwards as
 fast as possible, and after some
 difficulties arrived at Dynys-
 Mouthy.

This City (for Dynys is Welsh
 for City) is possessed of many
 and great advantages; there is
 no body-corporate to divide it
 into faction, there is not a single
 Office that can possibly be con-
 tended

tended for the rent of houses
 will be the same at all seasons
 and even in August you are ne-
 ver incommoded by the sun
 The river is not large, but it will
 never be encroached upon by the
 inhabitants; but their sequestered
 walks will never be injured by
 any fresh Dealers in Taste; — in-
 deed, they have only one tree
 cut down, an oak planted in the
 reign of Charles the second; and
 I believe they have never heard
 of any King since,

As to Fashions, they are simi-
lar to those in Town—the head-
dresses of the Females is very high,
and in a morning they generally
wear the Half Polonese †.

The Inns too, like the London
ones, are dark and dirty; but
there is very little noise in them;

as to provisions, the people
do not attempt to make what na-
ture has not bestowed upon them.

They gave me whatever they
had. I believe they never heard
of jackets and petticoats.

any King
had,

had, Bread, uncontaminated with
spurious mixtures, and Milk, that
was absolutely from the cow.

I did not see a Cathedral, nor
heard of either bishop or palace
probably he might reside at
great distance, and have consigned
his flock over to a chapel of ease.

There is no court of judica-
ture open here. This city is
free from attornies as ancient
Thebes ; indeed the two never
failing sources of litigation, the
Poor laws and the Game laws

are entirely unknown. There is not even a Quack ; so that those whom liquor spares, generally die at a very advanced age.

The Theatre is held in great repute. I had the pleasure to be present at one play, which is here called an *Anterlute*, probably a corruption from our term Interlude. The piece was said to have been written by a celebrated Mr. Evan something, who lived at Bala ; but, from the actions, gestures, and emblems, I conceived it

to

to have been modelled from before Shakespeare's time. The plot was in part similar to a burletta, which has frequently been exhibited in London, called La Serva Padrona, but the music was certainly not Pergolesi's. The orchestra, to be sure, was exceedingly contracted; but we must reflect, that some of our best, as well as earliest dramas, were only accompanied by a Harp. The price of admittance to this elegant entertainment, would have been

been termed by the Romans, De-
narius.

The road from Dynn's Mouth
afforded but little amusement,
and the first cast of Cader Idris
greatly disappointed me; but I
soon recollected, that as I was
then on very high ground, it
must have been from some other
point of view that this mountain
had rendered itself so remark-
able. In the course of this re-
lection, I was on a sudden de-
lighted with the country round

Dol.

Dolgelly,—woods, rocks, a rich vale, a fine river, and, at that distance, the appearance of rather a decent town, furrounded with many gentlemen's seats,—these contrasted with the barrenness had just travelled through, all joined to render the prospect truly delicious. But how was I disgusted on my arrival at the interior parts of this miserable place; there is no street in it; you pass from dungeon to dungeon through a multiplicity of hog yards

wards;—before I reached the inn
 I heard a cracked trumpet sound-
 ing every where about, and im-
 mediately concluded that I might
 see, in the evening, another farcè
 of *antperlute*; but was informed it
 was only intended to call the
 justices to the quarter-sessions.
 At the inn there was nothing to
 be obtained; so that as soon as
 possible I sent out for a Guide,
 that I might retire to the moun-
 tains;—whilst I was in waiting,
 I inquired about the only toler-
 able

able building I then saw, and was told it was for cock-matches such as we had in England; that they were just over, but that I might go immediately and see a famous man from London the tricks of *slight of hand*. I chiefly wished for some refreshment having greatly suffered from fatigue and illness the preceding day; but as I was a stranger, people shewed me little or no civility, and on my enquiring for horses, took every advantage

my distress. I was now almost
 inclined to have bestowed upon
 them some rather ungracious epi-
 grams; but I considered, that as we
 seemed to be teaching them no-
 thing from England but *cruelty*
 and *fraud*, I ought rather to la-
 ment the cause than insult the
 object of their brutality.

On the arrival of the Guide, I
 set out immediately for Cader
 Idris, and found the tract ex-
 ceedingly good, till I came to a
 prominent part of the mountain,

and here, I must acknowledge
 my head was too giddy sufficiently to admire the amazing scene that was opening to my view. At length, having gained the summit, (the whole ascent being near three miles,) on a fine piece of level ground, I could with comfort survey the sea, the Carnarvonshire shore, Snowdon without a cloud upon his top, lakes, rivers, rocks, and precipices which were every way spread before me ;—at the bottom

the hill, on the opposite side, was
 a small Village, to which several
 were returning heavy loaden
 from Dolgelly market; this Vil-
 lage is remarkable for nothing
 but the remains of a small
 castle, whose miserable situation
 could not secure it from the de-
 predations of Cromwell's army.
 In the course of my survey of
 the Mountain, it seemed to take
 a thousand capricious forms, but
 the most wonderful part of it is
 the tremendous peak, which over-

hangs the Lake of the * Three Grains,—but here I shall forbear description, as a fine representation of it, has been lately executed, by the ingenious and accurate pencil of Mr. Wilson.—On my return I discovered, far out of any tract, on the steepest part of the hill, a man gathering rock-moss to dye baizes red,—“dreadful trade!” one could

* The common people believe these three large craggs to have been cast out of the shoes of the giant Idris.

only

only exclaim ;—this excrescence
 is chiefly sold to Dublin—it af-
 fords a most beautiful colour at
 first, and if mixed with proper
 ingredients and distilled, will, it
 is said, become permanent. Be-
 ing very thirsty from heat and
 fatigue, I enquired for some
 goat's milk, but to no purpose ;
 the Guide, however, informed
 me, that he could procure me,
 from a neighbouring cottage, a
 liquor, peculiar to that part of
 North Wales, which infinitely

exceeded Stirom cyder—I tasted it, and found it was made of mountain-ash berries and crabs or sloes*,—it should remain at least half a year in the vessel before it is bottled off, and if it were then kept to a proper age, it would not be altogether con-

* The following lines have since occurred to me :

“ Then she describes
The Scythian winter, nor disdains to sing
How under ground the rude Riphæan race
Mimic brisk cyder with the brake’s pro-
duct wild ;

Sloes pounded, hips, and servis’ harshest
juice.”

PHILIPS.

temptible.

contemptible. The tediousness of
 my return to Dolgelly, was
 somewhat beguiled by the con-
 sequential information of the
 Guide, and I must own he great-
 ly entertained, and at the same
 time shocked me with the respect
 he paid me as an English gen-
 tleman,—whenever he replied to
 me, he thought it necessary to
 interlard his answer with fre-
 quent oaths, whereas I found
 when he spoke to my servant
 only, it was entirely in an un-
 adorned

adorned style, without the least display of these sensible embellishments.

The next morning being Sunday, I went to eight o'clock prayers here—the area of the church is spacious, and the pews neat—there is a coving roof of wood which is necessary to aid the voice, as the floor is only clay covered deep with rushes; the congregation was large, and the service was read with devotion and tolerable propriety.

My stay was prolonged at Dolgelly, that the master of the Inn, who was absent on my first arrival, and who was justly recommended to me as an intelligent Person, might attend me to see the three wonderful waterfalls in this neighbourhood— one of them is in so obscure a place, that the minister of an adjoining Parish, whom I afterwards met with, had never till that time even heard of it:—about five miles on the road towards

Tan

Tan y Bwlch, we turned on the left hand to see the first, which I take to be a part of the river Dery—this is not more than fifty feet in height, but you may afterwards trace it, for near a mile, through crags and trees, before it reaches its rocky bed at the bottom; the others, are falls of whole rivers, the Mothway and the Cayne, over the tops of two rocky mountains;—the former perhaps may not be above one hundred feet

in

in height, but the latter is certainly at least an hundred yards —both of them are shaded with beautiful woods on the sides of hills, whose summits are in the clouds, and whose feet are whitened by the foam of these tremendous cataracts.

Before we reached Tan y Bwlch, we stopped to look into a small church; where some cleanly villagers were assembled at evening prayers,—the women were by far the handsomest of any

any I saw in this country ; the clergyman was reading the lesson concerning David and his Concubines, and I could not help reflecting, that if these ignorant people should any way confound the Old with the New Law, they might here find some excuse for that Gallantry, which sacrifices the virtue of so many females in this neighbourhood : to prevent such a mistake, would it not be proper to have an exposition made of this chapter, and translated

lated into Welsh,—I mean only, provided the learned labour could be confined within the narrow limits of five volumes in folio.

I was much struck with the situation of Mrs. Griffith's house at Tan y Bwlch,—at first sight it somewhat resembled Matlock Bath, but the hills in front are thrown to a fine distance, and behind the house they are covered with wood ;—through a very spacious valley the river Dryryd runs, and from the tops
of

of the mountains are frequent and not inconsiderable cataracts—indeed most of the romantic prospects of North Wales, taken separately, are infinitely superior to those of Derbyshire; but where shall we find within the same distance, such amazing contrast as the high polish of Kedleston opposed to the bleak horrors of the Peak.

Mrs. Griffith is possessed of a considerable fortune,—she has an only daughter, to whom a

sen-

sensible clergyman, who resides
 in the house, is tutor, and who,
 though a chaplain, is treated as
 independent. A lady, it is true,
 in such a country cannot be eve-
 ry day interrupted with visitants,
 but Mrs. Griffith has generally a
 select party of friends, — these
 form a rational society, whereas
 in many places, a good neigh-
 bourhood means little more than
 of a keeping an inn at your own ex-
 pence.

D

At

At the distance of about three miles (the road most beautifully diversified) the scene changes on a sudden to some dark and naked precipices ; at the bottom is a large rocky basin, which receives the Rhaidr-du, or Black Cataract as it is called,—this, I am confident, is exactly similar to the spot where Hecate appointed her sister-witches to assemble, and offer their choicest incantations to complete the ruin of Macbeth.

And so the

And at the pit of Acheron

Meet me i'th' morning; thither He
Shall come, to know his destiny.

The mistress of the little inn
at Tan y Bwlch, has lived many
years servant in considerable fa-
milies, and from her attentive
civility, has received great com-
mendations from the few Eng-
lishmen that have hitherto visit-
ed this country.—Her house is
this year much improved;—Lord
Radnor, having staid a day or
two there, has made her a pre-

sent of the fitting up of her parlour: two sash-windows added great chearfulness to the room and each grateful passenger readily joins with the landlady in celebrating the kindness of the public-spirited young nobleman.

The road to Harlech afforded great variety; there could scarcely be more within the compass of ten miles. For the first three we surveyed "the Happy Valley *," we then passed by

* Vide Johnson's Rasselas.

her a beautiful lake, and having
 add gained the next mountain saw
 om the Castle, situated on a high
 rea rock, which projects into the
 y in Irish sea. It must be confessed,
 th however, that the last two miles
 nan were rather "a stair-case path;"
 rde but I have frequently travelled
 earo for twenty miles together in the
 fs o midland counties of England
 hre with more danger and difficulty.
 app In Wales one has the pleasure of
 b seeing that they are making daily
 improvements in roads; but in

England the farmers are so rich that, by the aid of some petty attorney in the neighbourhood they can generally protect themselves by knavery.

Harlech stands on the north-west side of the county of Merioneth; its houses are mean, and its inhabitants uncivilized. There is a good harbour for ships, but no ships for the harbour. It is remarkable only for its old decayed castle, which was defended by a British nobleman against

Edward

rich Edward the fourth, till an earl of
 petre Pembroke, after almost incredi-
 hood ble difficulties, compelled it to
 per surrender. It has been confi-
 dently asserted that this castle
 outh was built before Edward the first's
 erio time, and that all he did was the
 and making some additions, especial-
 here ly to the fortifications; but I
 bu should be rather inclined to think
 It is that it was planned at least by
 de Edward. A tradition goes, that
 end the workmen, after they had got
 inf to a considerable height, were

all taken off to build the castles
 of Aberystwith and Carnarvon;
 and indeed there are evident
 marks of a Separation,

An unpolished people, it is
 observed, have little or no curio-
 sity,—I had seated myself by the
 fire-side in one of the houses at
 Harlech without the inhabitants
 expressing the least surprize at it;
 the Guide and attendants began
 to be rather clamorous for some
 refreshment, and the people at
 length brought them some oat-
 meal

tles meal bread, four porter, and
 on; drinking cheefe. On my leaving
 lent the house, I believe I gave the
 mistress of it more than she ex-
 is expected, for she immediately re-
 called me to share some cockles
 the with her, that were stewing on
 es at the hearth, and whilst I was
 ants eating them, she super-added a
 t it; look of such native kindness
 egan and good-will, as infinitely fur-
 some passed all the artifices of refine-
 le at ment.

From

From Harlech, a fresh guide conducted me over the top of the mountain, and I found an entire good road on my return to Tan y Bwlch.

Leaving my little Inn there with regret, I passed a dreary cloud-capt country, till I came to a road which, for near a mile, was cut through a barren rock and finely preparative for the scene that was to open upon me. On a sudden I came upon

Portsmouth

uid Pont Aberglaslyn, the bridge that
 p o divides the counties of Merioneth
 d a and Carnarvon. It consists of
 etur only one wide stone arch, thrown
 over a considerable water-fall,
 the from two perpendicular pre-
 rear cipices ; beyond it is a semicircle
 can of rock, which forms a salmon-
 mil leap, above which, in spawn-
 roo ing time, the fish frequently at-
 r the tempt to lodge themselves, at
 up the amazing height of five or
 up six yards ; they are frequently
 Po caught here in the season with
 nets,

nets, and sometimes with spears
 that are barbed for the purpose
 but having passed the bridge
 how shall I express my feelings
 —the dark tremendous precipices,
 the rapid river roaring
 over disjointed rocks, black
 caverns, and issuing cataracts,
 all serve to make this the noble
 specimen of the Finely Horrible
 the eye can possibly behold,
 the Poet has not described, nor
 the Painter pictured so gloomy
 a retreat, —'tis the last Approach

to the mansion of Pluto through
the regions of Despair.

Having staid too long in con-
templating this amazing pass,
I posted as fast as possible over
a rocky desert to gain some re-
freshment at Bethkelert; the
blacksmith's house appearing
the neatest, I alighted, and was
able to obtain two eggs, which
might here be considered as a
most luxurious repast. At Tan-
by Bwlch I had been informed,
that I should really meet with
very

very decent accommodations at Bettus, and might with comfort take up my abode there for an evening. As I travelled, I reflected on Burnet's Description of a part of Carnarvonshire, that it was "the fragment of a demolished world," and on making some slight observation to the Guide of the dreariness that surrounded me, "Aye, master, says he, this must have been an ancient country indeed, for you see it is worn out to the very

every stone," this remark how-
 ever, is probably rather good
 than new;—but we were now
 arrived at Bettus, and the Guide
 pointed to the house, where I
 was to get lodging and entertain-
 ment;—the violent stench did
 not prevent my looking in,—the
 savages sat lapping their oatmeal
 and milk, and the swine were
 attendant at the table. In such
 a situation, only one question
 could properly be asked, which
 was, how many miles to Car-
 narvon?

narvon? Finding the distance only six miles, I determined to hazard being lost in the night, rather than to be frustrated in this nauseous dungeon. I must own I did here expatiate a little on recommendations, and said it was impossible that the Guide, as well as the mistress of the Inn at Tan Bwlch, could be so intolerably mistaken; the man apologized with great frankness, that he did

no bridge

not think the house altogether
 so bad, as my Honour would
 have been fure to have gotten
 some good ale ;"—however, a-
 midst all my vexation, I could
 not help doubting, whether Man
 sink into a Savage at Bettus, or
 polished into an Ape at Paris,
 was altogether the more respect-
 able animal.

Within three miles of Car-
 arvon I was agreeably surprised
 with a very fine road, and a new
 bridge, which will open a free

communication with these unfrequented regions, and induce the Curious to visit the Wonders of the British Alps, in preference to the Mountains of Switzerland, or the Glaciers of Savoy.—Mr. Barrington, who, to a consummate knowledge in the formation of Laws, adds Zeal and Propriety in the execution of them, has now indicted all the parishes between Carnarvon and Bethkelert ; and indeed, unless men of great rank or the justices of each district

will

will take upon them this office,
 at Bill, which was in many
 parts so excellently framed by
 Gilbert about two years ago,
 must become totally void and in-
 efficacious ;—I know that it will
 immediately said, that any
 private gentleman has the same
 means within his own power ;
 what private gentleman, for
 sake of a road, will live in
 perpetual warfare with five or six
 thousands around him ?—Who, for
 convenience of rolling his

carriage a quarter of an hour sooner to some neighbouring market-town, will endanger his plantations being cut down, or cattle to be either maimed or destroyed?

I passed my evening at a very good inn at Carnarvon, and having procured an intelligent Guide returned early next morning through Bettus to the foot of Snowdon.—Having left my horse at a small hut, and hired a mountaineer to carry some corn

and provisions, with a spiked
 pack, but imprudently without
 nails in my shoes, about ten
 o'clock I began to ascend the
 mountain.—The two first miles
 were rather boggy and disagree-
 able, but when the prospect open-
 ed, I soon forgot all difficulties ;
 in the course of the two last I
 passed by six precipices, which I
 believe were very formidable,
 but as I was near the brink, and
 the wind very high, I did not
 venture to examine too narrowly.

—On the summit, which is a plain
 about six yards in circumference
 the air was perfectly mild and
 serene, and I could with pleasure
 contemplate the amazing map
 that was unfolded to my view.—
 From hence may be distinctly
 seen, Wicklow Hills in Ireland
 the Isle of Man, Cumberland, Lan-
 cashire, Cheshire, Shropshire, and
 part of Scotland ;—all the coun-
 ties of North Wales, the Isle of
 Anglesea ;—rivers, plains, woods,
 rocks, and mountains, fix and
 twenty

twenty lakes, and two seas ;—it
 is doubted whether there is an-
 other circular prospect so exten-
 sive in any part of the terraqueous
 globe.—Who could take such a
 Survey, without perceiving his
 spirits elevated in some propor-
 tion to the Height?—Who could
 behold so bountiful a Display of
 Nature without Wonder and Ec-
 stacy?—Who but must feel even
 a Degree of Pride from having
 gained an eminence, from which
 he could with ease overlook the

Nest * of the Eagle, and the Nest
of the Hawk?

But as the level walks of Life
are best suited to the generality of
Mankind, it became necessary to
consider that this was no spot
where I could properly make an
lasting Abode, and that the Re-
turn would be attended with at
least as much difficulty as the
Ascent.——Having descended

* Moel Guidon, and Moel Happle
two mountains near Snowdon, mentioned
by Lord Lyttelton.

Vide Account of a Journey into Wales

mil

mile or two, I did not think it
 amiss to enquire about an ex-
 hausted Mine that I saw at a dis-
 tance ; and I could make this en-
 quiry with the better grace, as the
 Guides had hitherto quite won-
 dered at my prowess ; — the
 Mine I was informed was only
 Copper ; and happy was it for
 the Welsh that their Mines did
 not consist of choicer Metals ; —
 had they been cursed with either
 Gold or Silver, Foreign Nations
 long since, in the name of the
 God

God of Peace, and under pretence of teaching them an immaculate Religion *, had laid waste their country, and murdered its inhabitants.

At the Foot of Snowdon I turned about half a mile out of the way to see a Water-fall;—the

* The Spaniards made the Gospel an Excuse for all the barbarities they committed in the conquest of Peru, and when they plundered the rich mines of Potosi, they frequently (says Las Casas) erected gibbets all over the country, and hung twelve poor wretches at a time, in honour of the twelve Apostles.

Side-

Side-rock was exceedingly beautiful, but the Cataract itself was rather contemptible, after the noble ones I had seen in the neighbourhood of Dolgelly.—As the Guides seemed to think a floating island, about two miles distant, was a most wonderful phenomenon, and related many singular and surprising tales concerning it, I indulged their credulity so far as to go and inspect it ;—the Lake, as they called it, was somewhat bigger than a common duck-

duck-pond ; and the Island was a knotty piece of Bog, which, after very heavy rains, might very possibly float in it.

On my return to Carnarvon I examined the Town and Castle.—The town was built by the command of Edward the First, out of the ruins of the ancient city of Segontium, that stood a little below it ;—it is situated between two rivers, and has a beautiful prospect of the Isle of Anglesea ;—it was formerly of very great
account

account when the Princes of Wales kept their Chancery and Exchequer Courts there.—On the west side of it stands the Castle, which was built to curb the Welsh mountaineers, and secure a passage to the opposite shore —In a part of it, called the Eagle Tower, you are shewn the remains of a chamber in which Edward the Second * is

* The Cradle of that weak, wicked, unfortunate prince is still preserved ; it is now in the possession of a clergyman in Gloucestershire, to whom it descended from one of his ancestors, who attended the Prince in his infancy.

said

said to have been born ; about ten years after his birth it was besieged by the Welsh, but was afterwards repaired ; and both the town and castle had divers Privileges confirmed to them by different Sovereigns, down to the reign of Elizabeth ; during the last civil war they were held for King Charles, but were afterwards surrendered on conditions to the Parliament. On viewing these spacious Ruins, I could only

only ruminate on the Changes they had undergone;—strange Reverse! —to think that those Walls, which heretofore resounded with Acclamations on the Birth of the first English Prince of Wales, should now afford Shelter only to a few miserable Cottages, from the tempestuous Blasts of the Bristol channel !

I made several Excursions into the Isle of Anglesea, the well-known Seat of the Druids;—
this

this may now be considered as
 Claſſical Ground; for though
 Mona is deſtroyed, and her Al-
 tars aboliſhed, — though Fires
 have conſumed her Groves, and
 her Priests have periſhed by the
 Sword, yet, like the Phoenix
 ſhe riſes more glorious from
 Decay; her Aſhes have given
 Birth to the Caractacus of
 Maſon, and the Fate of her
 Bards to the Inſpiration of
 Gray.

Nothing

Nothing could be more delightful than the Ride from Car-
 arvon to Bangor ; to the right
 and were Snowdon Hills, and to
 the left the River Menai, or more
 properly speaking, the Strait be-
 tween the Continent and the
 Island of Anglesea ; I had now
 got into Day-light and the polite
 World again ;—there had been a
 diversion the night before at Car-
 arvon, and the road was covered
 over with Carriages.

F

Bangor

Bangor lies at the north end
of the same Frith, or arm of the
Sea, which is the passage to Anglesea, where it has a Harbor
for Boats. It was once so large
as to be called Bangor the Great
and was defended with a powerful
Castle, built by Hugh Earl of
Chester, which has long since
been demolished. The Town
now of very little Note, except for
being the See of a Bishop; the
Palace is neat, but deplorable
situated

situated;—this is doubly mortifying in a Country where every part of the neighbourhood is picturesque and pleasing; his Lordship however has the happiness of being so much beloved in his Diocese, that it would have been almost Treason there to have wished him a Removal.

Between Bangor and Conway I passed over the famous Mountain called Penmaen Mawr—the roads must formerly have been very frightful, but a Wall is now built

to the Sea side, to which it is said
 the City of Dublin very largely
 contributed ;—to form this road
 it has already cost upwards of
 two thousand pounds, and it can
 be kept open only at a continual
 expence, for vast Fragments of
 Rock are frequently falling fort
 fathom from above, which en
 tirely block it up, till they are
 forced through the Parapet into
 the Sea, which lies perpendicu
 larly full as deep below.

From

From hence the Country opens
 into a Plain, which extends as far
 as the River Conway, the eastern
 Limit of the County of Carnar-
 von. It rises out of a Lake of
 the same name, and runs with a
 north-west Course, receiving in
 the short space of twelve miles
 more than as many Rivers, so
 that at Aberconway, where it
 discharges its waters into the
 Irish Sea, it is full a mile broad,
 and capable of bringing Ships of
 almost any Size up to the Town;

at present Conway bears only some melancholy Marks of what it once was, and to what a wretched State, by a total Decay of Trade, it is now reduced.

The Castle still remains one of the noblest Monuments of Antiquity; it is built in the same Style with that of Carnarvon, but is far more regular. The Outside is the same as in the time of Edward the First, except one Tower, and that was not demolished with either battering engine

gines or cannons, but by the people of the place taking Stones from the foundation of it. Some Remains of the principal Rooms are still to be seen, the Dimensions of which have been accurately given by Lord Lyttelton, and an elegant View of them in Antiquities by Mr. Grose; but I had never seen the Outside of this most venerable Ruin to advantage had I not walked over some polished Ground about a quarter of a mile from it, which I be-

lieve belongs to a Gentleman of
 Conway ;—there You see the Castle
 finely sheltered by an Oak Wood
 —on one side the Chief of River
 opening into the Irish Sea, and
 on the other the Mountains sur-
 rounding Penmaen, with a distant
 Country most beautifully divers-
 fied.—Art and Nature cannot
 combine to form a more various
 and more delicious Prospect.

I could not possibly leave this
 part of the Country without see-
 ing the Vale of Llanryst, the

Bridge

Bridge built by Inigo Jones, and the Chapel supposed to have been planned by him, which contains the rich monuments of the Guedir Family.—The Vale upon the whole I thought inferior to that I had seen in Montgomeryshire, but the Bridge is certainly a very elegant Structure, and speaks itself to be the Work of a great Architect, most probably of Jones, for I incline to the opinion that Llanryst was the Place of his Nativity.

The

The Chapel which adjoins the Parish Church, was erected by Sir Richard Wynne, one of the Grooms of the Bed-chamber to Charles the First when Prince of Wales, and was chiefly made use of for the Alms-House in the neighbourhood, which was endowed by the Guedir Family. I took the Pains of copying the different Inscriptions in it, and as they are not contained in the History of that Family lately published,

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lished, they may not be unacceptable to the curious Antiquary.

“ This Cappel was erected Anno Domini 1633. By Sir Richard Wynne of Gwydir in the County of Carnavon Knight and Baronet, Treasurer to the High and Mighty Princess Henrietta Maria Queen of England, Daughter to King Henery the Fourth King of France, and Wife to our Soveraing King Charles. Where lieth Buried his Father S^r John Wynne of Gwydir in the County of Caernarvon Knight and Baronet, Son and Heyre to Maurice Wynne, Son and Heyre to John Wynne, Son and Heyre to Meredith, Which Three lye Buried in the Church of Dolwyddelan with Tombes over them. This Meredith Son and Heyre to Evan, Son and Heyre to Robert, Son and Heyre to

to Meredith, Son and Heyre to Howel,
 Son and Heyre to David, Son and Heyre
 to Griffith, Son and Heyre to Carradock,
 Son and Heyre to Thomas, Son and
 Heyre to Roderick Lord of Anglesey, Son
 to Owen Gwynedd Prince of Wales, and
 and younger to David Prince of Wales,
 who married Eme Plantagenet Sister to
 King Henery the Second. There suc-
 ceeded this David Three Princes, His
 Nephew Leolinus Magnus, who married
 Jone Daughter to King John, David his
 Son, Nephew to King Henery the Third,
 and Leoline the Last Prince of Wales of
 that House and Line who lived in King
 Edward the First his time. S^r John
 Wynne married Sydney who lieth buried
 here, the Daughter of S^r William Gerrard
 Knight, Lord Chancellour of Ireland, by
 whom he had Issue S^r John Wynne who
 died att Lucca in Italy. S^r Richard
 Wynne

Wynne now living, Thomas Wynne who
 Lieth here, Roger Wynne who Lieth here,
 William Wynne now living, Maurice
 Wynne now living, Ellis Wynne who
 lieth Buried att Whitford in the County
 of Flint, Henery Wynne now liveing,
 Roger Wynne who lieth here, and Two
 Daughters, Mary now living married to
 S^r Roger Mostyn in the County of Flint
 Knight. and Elizabeth now liveing mar-
 ried to S^r John Bodvil in the County of
 Caernarvon Knight."

On the Floor are four Brasse
 Plates, with Drawings of Figures
 upon each of them in the Dresses
 of the Times, one of Maria
 Mostyn, Wife of Roger Mostyn,
 another

another of Sir Owen Wynne, another of Sir John Wynne, and a Fourth of Lady Sydney Wynne, Wife of Sir John Wynne. And in the Corner of the Chapel a Stone Coffin, which was removed from the Abbey of Conway, about two miles from hence, on which is the following Inscription :

“ This is the Coffin of Leolinus Magnus Prince of Wales who was buried in the Abbey of Conway, and upon the Dissolution, remov'd from thence.”

On

On each Side are six carved Re-
cesses in the figure of Flower de
Luces, which bear evident Marks
of having contained Brass Plates,
and two at the bottom of the
Coffin.

There is now erected in the
Church a Gallery of exquisite
Workmanship, which was re-
moved likewise from the Abbey;
and I was at the trouble of hav-
ing a large quantity of Rubbish
taken away from under an old
Staircase, that I might inspect a
Stone

Stone Effigy, which is said to be of Hoel Coetmore, who sold the Guedir Estate to the Wynne Family; the Word Gwedir is supposed to signify Glafs, and that Family probably was the first who in these parts had a House with glazed Windows.

I ought to make some Apology for the foregoing heavy Articles but elaborate Inscriptions frequently illustrate History, and These will at least shew that Some

of the Welsh were not totally regardless of Pedigree.

I made diligent enquiry through all Carnarvonshire, and this part of Denbighshire, for the Glyder Mountain, which Gibson has particularly described, and which, from its singularity, (say the Authors of a Tour through Wales,) we more wished to have seen, than the Summits of either Plinlimmon or Snowdon.

G

“ On

“ On the utmost top of this Mountain, according to the Continuator of Camden, who saw it, is a prodigious pile of Stones, many of which are of the magnitude of those at Stonehenge. They lie in such an irregular manner, crossing and supporting each other, that some people have imagined them to be the remains of a vast building; but Gibson more naturally supposes them to be the skeleton or ruins

of

of the Mountain; the weaker parts of which may have been worn away in a series of ages, by the rains and meltings of the Snow.

“ On the west side of the same mountain, he speaks of a remarkable precipice, adorned with numerous equidistant columns, formed to that shape by the almost continual rains, which this high rock, being exposed to the westerly sea wind, is subject to.

“ Notwithstanding the situation of this mountain seems to be pointed out by the last line and though its Phænomena are so peculiar, yet We (add the Authors of the same Tour) were obliged to leave the Country without gaining the smallest knowledge of it.”

I was equally unfortunate in not being able to see this Mountain, but in crossing the wide Ferry at Conway, I by accident

gained

gained such Information, that I am confident any future Traveller may very readily satisfy his Curiosity; an old Boatman there informed me, that he had frequently seen it,—that in his younger days indeed it was sometimes termed the Glyder, but was now known only by the name of Wythwar,—that it was within a mile or two of a Village, called Clynog, and upon the Shore almost opposite to Carnarvon.

On my way to St. Asaph, I passed over the top of Penmaen Rofs, a steep and formidable Mountain; this is by far the worst part of the road between Holyhead and Chester;—a nearer Path was some time since cut along the side of the sea cliff, but a Man and Horse had lately been killed, and by order of the Commissioners it is now entirely broken up.

The City of St. Asaph is called in British Llan Elwy, on account
of

of its situation at the Conflux of the River Elwy with the Clwyd; and St. Asaph by the English, from its Patron Asaph, who in the year 560 erected a Bishop's See there. The Bishop of this Diocese has no entire County under his Jurisdiction, but Parts only of the Counties of Flint, Denbigh, Montgomery, Merioneth, and Salop. The Cathedral is a mean Structure, and the Houses in general but ill built, St. Asaph however may boast that

it stands in the delightful Vale of Clwyd, though by no means in the finest part of it.

About five miles from thence, near the road to Holywell, You have the best View I think of that fertile and delicious Vale ;—it is of an oval shape, about 25 miles in length, and about eight miles wide in its broadest part; it lies open only to the Ocean, and to the clearing North Wind, being elsewhere guarded with high mountains, which towards
the

the East especially are like Battle-
 ments or Turrets, for by an ad-
 mirable Contrivance of Nature,
 says Camden, the tops of these
 Mountains resemble the Turrets
 of Walls. Upon the whole
 however I think that there are
 other cultivated Scenes in North
 Wales equal, if not superior;
 in the Vale of Clwyd indeed You
 have the Lively and the Beauti-
 ful, but in Montgomeryshire the
 Awful and Sublime.

Holy-

Holywell, and the History of its Virgin Saint, would require at least a Folio. I shall only say that I was truly sorry to find that blasphemous Papers should still be suffered to be publicly sold at the Spring there, which compare the ludicrous Legend of Winefrid with the most sacred Truths of the Gospel.

It was my Intention to have seen Winstay, Erthig, and Chirk Castle*,

* Sir Watkin Wynne's, Mr. Yorke's, and Mr. Middleton's.

and

and afterwards to have traced the River Dee to Bala, but I was unexpectedly called off from my Tour ; I had the good fortune however to join Party with the Bishop of Kildare, whose easy Manners and refined Conversation left me no room to regret a Disappointment.

To the foregoing Account, which was in part printed off for the Use and Amusement of some select Friends only, I shall now add a few general Remarks on
the

the History of the Country and the Manners of its Inhabitants.

The Origin of every Nation is necessarily obscure, and always lost in a pretended Antiquity. On the Authority of Bochart we may trace the Welsh from Japhet, the Son of Noah ; according to Others, from Trojans and Phœnicians, who were the Offspring of Gods ; and one Writer I think has asserted that a True Briton is a Compound of all Nations under Heaven. That Britain
how-

however was peopled from Gaul
 1000 years before Christ, appears
 very probable,—the arguments
 in favour of this opinion are de-
 duced from the State of Popula-
 tion on the Continent, and from
 the Progress of it in the Island it-
 self. It has been well observed *
 that Names descriptive of na-
 tional Manners cannot be the
 original Appellations of any peo-
 ple, they result from the inter-

* By Whitaker.

course

course and experience of the States around them, on whose territories they have dared to encroach ; the Appellation of Brigantes, according to Strabo, came to signify a turbulent and plundering race, and the Denominations of Celtæ and Gael came to import, even amongst themselves, the Ferocious and the Stranger.

The Name of Cymri appears to have been the great hereditary Distinction of the Gauls upon the Continent, and to have been carried

ried with them into all their Conquests; it was not retained in our Island merely by the Natives of Wales, but was equally the Appellation of a Nation in the South-West of Somersetshire and the North-East of Cornwall.

The first Denomination of our Island was certainly Albion, a name given before the Country was inhabited; it was the Celtic Term for Heights or Eminences; the Alps some ages before the Days of Strabo were called Albia,

bia, and in his time there remained two tribes on the Mountains that bore the Names of Albioeci and Albienses.

The second Denomination was that of Britain, derived from a Celtic Word likewise signifying *Divided*, not *Painted*; this Etymology has lately been proved not to have been applied to the Region, but bestowed on the Inhabiters; not previously borne on the Continent by the original Settlers of the Country, but assumed or received

received at their first Removal
into the Island.

The Title of Welsh seems to
arise from the Word Wall or Gall,
an appellation which the Britons
frequently gave each other; nor
will this Derivation appear forced
if we add, that the Channel be-
twixt France and England was
denominated Sinus Vallicus, or
the Gallick Strait, so late as the
eighth Century, and that the
Dutch and Germans call the
H French

French by the Name of Walls and Walloons to this very Day.

○ The general Denomination of Wales was not imposed on the Country by the Saxons, but was the acknowledged Appellation of the Region as early as the sixth Century, if we may believe a Quotation from Talieffin, as cited by Dr. Davies.

Nor were some plain and certain Derivations of Names till of late only unknown to us,—we have

have not always had either just
 Ideas of British Manners or British
 Antiquities ; this ample Field of
 History has been greatly laid
 open by an Individual *, and a
 rich Produce will continually
 arise from the judicious Publica-
 tions of a most respectable So-
 ciety †.

Our Knowledge of the Druids
 is still vague and unsatisfying,
 and must ever remain so, as they

* Whitaker.

† Society of Antiquaries.

committed few things, if any, to Writing, though they were certainly not unacquainted with Letters; for among the Maxims collected by Gollet, there is one that forbids their Mysteries to be written, a Prohibition which could never have been given had Letters been entirely unknown; some curious Particulars however may at least be traced from Tradition and others from Specimens of their Poetry that have been recited by the Natives. As Guardian

of what They called True Religion, they of course possessed the greatest authority among the people; No Laws were instituted by the Princes without their Advice, no Plunder taken in War without their partaking of it. They held the Dissolution of the World by Fire and Water, they taught the Immortality, and some say the Transmigration of the Soul, a Doctrine borrowed from the Pythagoreans, though Clemens Alexandrinus expressly asserts that

the Pythagoreans borrowed that Doctrine from them ; in my own opinion they never believed the Transmigration of the Soul at all ; and I found this opinion on some late Accounts of Gaulish Funerals, which certainly corresponded with the British ones ; the Customs and Ceremonials of which were absolutely incompatible with that Doctrine.

They sacrificed human Victims to propitiate the Gods ; and prophesied future Events from the
falling

falling of the Body, and the Manner in which the Members were convulsed ;—they believed there was a divine Mystery in Mistleto, but took their first Distinction from the Oak, to which the Jews paid the same regard during their Idolatry, according to a Passage in Ezekiel, “ under every thick *Oak* did they offer sweet Sacrifice to their Idols.” Once a year They, with their Chief, an Arch-Druid, assembled at a fixed time and place to hear Causes,

and determine all Disputes; where their decisive Court was held has never been determined, but most probably in Anglesea, as that Island was certainly their Metropolis. So great was the Power of the Druids, that not only the Property, but also the Lives of the People were entirely at their Disposal, and this Power continued absolute till the time of Tiberius;—it was afterwards suppressed by Claudius, under the fair Pretext of abolishing human sacrifices,

sacrifices, but the Priests themselves, their Gods and their Altars subsisted, though in obscurity, till the final Destruction of Paganism.

The Manners of the People were naturally tinged with the Discipline of their Teachers ; in proportion to their ignorance they were superstitious, and in proportion to their zeal they committed Cruelties and Fraud ; I shall not raise Disgust by a recital of Barbarities, but rather refer my
 Readers

Readers to the Journals of modern Voyages, where they will find, that there is a Sameness in the primæval State of every savage Nation: a few other Particulars however may not be uninteresting. The Britons lived in Tribes or Clans, under the Aristocratical rule of their several Lords; their Villages were a confused Parcel of Huts placed at a small distance from each other, and, generally speaking, in the middle of a Wood, whereof the

Avenues

Avenues were defended with Trees, that were cut down to clear the ground.

Their Trade was very inconsiderable, notwithstanding the convenient situation of the Island for carrying on an extensive Commerce; Their vessels were very small, with their Keels and Ribs made of light Timber, interwoven with Wicker, and covered with Hides, which shews that they never undertook long Voyages, most probably never ventured

tured to Sea beyond the Coasts of Gaul.

The Britons were not so totally destitute of Defence as has been imagined ; the Island is of itself a Shield, and they certainly made use of the Battle-axe, as well as Military Chariot ; these Chariots were drawn by Horses, and the Axle-trees were generally furnished with Scythes ; but the People were not united under a well regulated government, or they would always have continued formi-

formidable to their Enemies ;—
 a number of petty Communities
 will never act in concert with
 each other ; tho' History informs
 us that upon great and extraordi-
 nary Dangers a Chief Commander
 was always chosen by common
 consent ; but what State or Co-
 lony will acquiesce even with the
 Leader themselves have chosen ?
 and in the end, if unsuccessful,
 he must always fall a Sacrifice to
 those Miseries their own Incon-
 sistencies alone have occasioned.

When

When that part of Britain which comprehends the present Kingdom of England and Principality of Wales, was divided into several petty Kingdoms, the Inhabitants were all distinguished by different names. The Principality of Wales, formerly comprehending the whole Country beyond the Severn, was in the Roman times occupied by the Silures, the Dimetæ, and Ordovices; to these belonged not only the twelve Counties of Wales,

but

but likewise the two others lying beyond the Severn, Herefordshire and Monmouthshire, which in the reign of Charles the Second were first reckoned amongst the English Counties.

The Country now known by the name of North Wales was inhabited by the Ordovices only, who held out first against the Romans, and afterwards against the English, after the other Britons were subdued; for by the Romans they were not reduced

till the time of Domitian, nor by the English till the Reign of Henry the First.

About forty-five years before the Christian Æra, Britain was first invaded by the Romans under Julius Cæsar,—afterwards by Claudius, and at length became a Province under the Roman empire ; it was governed by Lieutenants, or Deputies, sent from Rome, as Ireland is now by Deputies from England ; and continued thus under the Romans

for

for upwards of 400 years ; till that Empire being invaded by the Goths and Vandals, the Romans were forced not only to recall their own armies, but also to draw from hence the bravest of the Britons, for their assistance against those Barbarians.

The Country being left in a defenceless State, was invaded by the Scots, who were so rapacious, that the Britons sent over a miserable application for relief to Ætius, the Roman General, who

I

by

by several famous Successes, for a time, had repelled the violence of the Gothick Arms, but receiving no hopes of any Succours from that General, the South Britons invited over the Saxons, who no sooner delivered them from their ancient Enemies the Picts and Scots, than they strengthened their own Numbers, turned their Arms against the Natives, and conquered them, some few excepted, who secured themselves in the Mountains of Wales; whence their Descendants

seendants have always been distinguished by the Title of Ancient Britons.

During the Saxon Hepharchy lived the renowned Prince Arthur, whose Valour would have relieved the miserable state of the Britons, had Valour only been wanting; his History has been so blended with Fable, that some have doubted the real existence of such a Person; but it seems rather hard because Stories have been invented concerning the Ac-

tions of his Life, that he should not be allowed to have lived at all ; it is true that the Saxon Annals make no mention of this King, but it was not probable that the Saxons would be fond of recording Exploits, which redounded only to their own discredit ; an ancient English Historian speaking of Cerdic, mentions his fighting several Battles with King Arthur ; and William of Malmesbury owns, that though the Britons had vented innumerable

merable Fables concerning this Prince, he certainly was a Hero worthy to be celebrated in True History. The Britons bewailed "their long lost Arthur" for several Ages after his Death;—they believed he was still alive in Fairy Land, and that he would return once more to reign over them; nor was this notion rooted out till the reign of Henry the Second, about six hundred years afterwards, when his Coffin was dug up at Glastenbury in Somerset-

shire, with the following Inscription, "Here lies buried the renowned King Arthur in the Island Avalonia." The Exploits of this Warrior have not only been sung by Talieffin and other British Bards, but have been celebrated by one of the greatest of our English Poets; it seems by some Hints given by Spenser, that he intended a Poem whose title was to be expressly, King Arthur;—Dryden tells us that he had some thoughts of making
 choice

choice for the subject of an Heroic Poem, King Arthur's Conquests over the Saxons ; Milton, in a Latin Address to Manfius, has likewise intimated the same Intention.

Wales was anciently bounded by the Irish Seas, and by the Rivers Severn and Dee, till the Saxons became Masters of all the level Countries over those Rivers; and till Offa, king of Mercia, made the celebrated Trench, which is still called by

his Name. This Trench, which extended from North to South,—from the mouth of the River Dee to that of the Wye, has been thought to have been an Imitation of the Ramparts, which were thrown up by Agricola, Adrian, and Severus, to guard the Romans against the Incurfions of the Northern Barbarians; but from some Remains of it, as well as for feveral other Reafons, it feems more probable, that it was not intended by Offa as a Fortification, but

but rather as a Boundary betwixt his Kingdom and the Cambrian Province.

When after many Events between the several Races of the Heptarchy, Ecbert became the sole King of England, as it was now distinguished from the Principality of Wales, he possessed himself also of Mona, the Capital of the Cambrian Province; but the Saxons some time afterwards being driven out of it, it was from them called Anglesea, English-

Englishman's Island, a name which it has retained ever since.

In the year eight hundred and forty-three all Wales was united under the Dominion of Roderic, surnamed the Great; who, by a testamentary Settlement, made a new Division between three Sons into three Districts, which were called Kingdoms, and distinguished by the Names of South Wales, Powis Land, and North Wales; this Partition gave rise to many Wars, which caused the Kingdom

dom of Powis Land to be portioned among the Conquerors, and annexed partly to South Wales, and partly to North Wales, Divisions which subsist to this Day.

No sooner were the Saxons settled under one Monarch, than the Danes began to trouble them, as they (the Saxons) had before done the Britons, till, after many Invasions, Edgar King of England set forth the first Navy, made Peace with the Danes, and allowed

ed them to live in his Dominions mixed with the English;—at this time we read of five Kings in Wales, who all did him Homage for their Country.

Notwithstanding many Attempts of the English, the Welsh enjoyed their own Laws, and lived under their own Princes, till in the year 1282 Llewellyn lost both his Principality and Life; in the reign of Henry the Eighth Wales was incorporated and united with England; and
by

by a Statute of the 27th of that Reign, all Laws and Liberties of England were to take place there; from which time the Welsh have approved themselves truly worthy of their high Origin, loyal and dutiful to their King, and always zealous for the Welfare of the Community.

The Welsh Language is still the Gomerian or Old Celtic, the same that was once spoken throughout Europe, except that through length of time, and Inter-

termixture of the people with the Scythians and other nations, it has split into a variety of Dialects. No Tongue, either ancient or modern, I believe, bears greater Marks of antiquity; its strong resemblance to the Hebrew has been generally admitted, in so much that one Author of great Learning has given a Specimen of a considerable number of Phrases out of the Old Testament, which are so alike in both, that they seem to have been originally the same. It is

no uncommon Error to give the Name of Mother Tongue to those Languages, from which some known Idioms only are derived ; the Hebrew has been considered as a Mother Tongue, but was evidently borrowed from the Phœnician ; the Latin is called the Mother tongue to the Italian, the Spanish, and the French, but the Latin itself was derived from the Tuscan, and the Tuscan from the Celtic and the Greek. It will reasonably be asked, how the Gomerians

merians have preserved their Language almost entire, whilst the Jews have suffered theirs to be corrupted, and blended with those of their Conquerors?—for this, many reasons may be assigned; the Former have not been so frequently subdued, and they have always preserved a considerable Regard for what They conceived to be a Mother tongue; a regard greatly kept up perhaps by the Custom which the Lowest of the People had, of reciting their Genealogies.

nealogies. This ancient Language is spoken the nearest to its original purity in the uncultivated parts of North Wales, but the Welsh in general still retain so high a veneration for it, that I am confident they will never readily suffer the English to be entirely made use of in their Churches, or taught solely in their Schools.

Much has been said of those Druidical Remains, which by many Authors have been indis-

K

crimi-

criminally called Carns, Car-
nedds, and Cromlechs; but of
their original meaning, I shall
venture the following Conjecture,
—that by the word Carn, which
signified a Rock, the Britons sim-
ply implied one large broad
Stone, as a covering for a Grave*;

* The Word Carn was afterwards
used in an ill sense, most probably when
the Mode of Burial came to be changed
on the Introduction of Christianity; then
Malefactors being thrown into holes near
the Highways, and great quantities of
Stones heaped upon them, it was no un-
common thing for a man to say to his
enemy; *May a Carn be your Monument.*

by

by a Carnedd, a heap of Stones thrown rudely together to commemorate an event ; and by a Cromlech, an huge, broad, flat Stone raised high on other Stones, where the ancient Britons, like the Hebrews, made Sacrifices or paid religious Adoration.

Those nice Distinctions that have been formed of the Druids, the Bards and the Vates, subsisted only, I think, in particular Societies ; the Druids in general

composed and recited Hymns, as
 worship to their Deities ; the
 Bards * certainly composed

* The Bards, who were inferior
 Druids, wore an ecclesiastical Ornament
 during the celebration of their Rites,
 called by the Latins Caputium, or Cu-
 cullus, which is still retained in our Uni-
 versities ; the Gauls, who borrowed this
 custom from the British Druids, wore the
 Cucullus remarkably long, whence it ob-
 tained, on its being made use of at Rome,
 the name of Bardo-Cucullus, or Bard's
 Hood. It was in allusion to the Shape
 of this Hood, that Martial feared lest a
 Sheet of his Book should be rolled up to
 put Pepper or Frankincense in :

Ne Thuris Piperisve fit Cucullus.

VID. NICHOLLS.

Hymns

Hymns likewise; but it was in the hour of Battle that their labours were chiefly celebrated, by singing the Exploits of deceased Heroes; while the Vates were principally engaged in the Rites of Sacrifice, or the Arts of Divination.

The Welsh have always laid claim to the Discovery of America, in preference to the Great Columbus, but this claim has hitherto been supported with little more than bare Conjecture; in the

twelfth Century, according to Powell, there was a War in Wales for the Succession, upon the Death of Owen Guinneth ; and a Bastard having carried it from the lawful Heirs, one of the latter, called Madoc, put to Sea, and sailing west from Spain, discovered a new world of wonderful Fertility ;—to prove that a country was thus discovered, the Welsh have recourse to the Authority of Meridith ap Rhees, who composed an Ode in honour
of

Prince Madoc and his new-found Land ; and that this Country was America they have alledged on the credit of Peter Martyr, that the Natives of Virginia celebrated the memory of one Madoc, as a great and ancient Hero ; and always supposed their Ancestors to have come thither at first, from some very distant Countries on the other side the great Water, at the time that has been asserted, and from the same point of the Compass. The af-

finity of Language has since been frequently urged by modern Travellers, and Bishop Nicholson in particular, speaks confidently that the British makes a considerable part of several of the American Tongues; in answer to these Assertions, the ingenious Dr. Robertson has just now declared, that he conceives the skill of the Welsh in the twelfth Century, not to have been equal to such a Voyage; and that the instances given of the

the affinity of Language are so obscure and fanciful, that no conclusion can be drawn from them ; to these remarks he adds, that if the Welsh towards the Close of the twelfth Century had settled in any part of America, some remains of the Christian doctrine must have been afterwards found among their Descendants, when they were discovered three hundred years after their migration ; — but here I must entirely disagree with the learned Author,—three hundred
years

years cannot in this case be called a "short period;"—one Century would probably have been sufficient to have obliterated every mark of a Religion, that had to combat with the prejudices of an unlettered people; that did not address itself immediately to their Interests, and through a Mode of Civilization, teach them at first only, as Warburton well expresses it, * the emollient Arts of Life.

* The Gospel, plain and simple as it is, and fitted in its nature for what it was ordained to effect, requires an intellect something

Christianity seems to have been introduced into Britain, as early as the first Century, but of this great Event our Accounts must necessarily be very imperfect, as the Saxons destroyed almost all the Writings in which it was recorded ; Monks, we read, had certainly a School of Chris-

something above that of a Savage to apprehend. Nor is it at all to the dishonour of our holy Faith, that such a one must be taught a previous lesson ; and first of all instructed in *the emollient Arts of Life*.

See the Bishop of Gloucester's Sermon
on the Propagation of the Gospel.

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tian Learning many years before 182, when there was an Archbishop of Caerleon, and Suffragans under him ; but the Clergy had no distinct Parishes either in Anglesea or any other part of the kingdom, till many years afterwards. About the year 600, Pope Gregory sent Austin the Monk to preach the Gospel in England to the Heathen Saxons, who was received by Ethelbert ; and being admitted to explain the Doctrine and

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Myſteries of it, ſo well ſucceeded that he converted great numbers, and at length the King himſelf. Thus the Chriſtian Religion came to be eſtabliſhed in England under the Rites and Authority of the Romiſh Church, by which Auſtin was inſtituted Chief Biſhop, and ſeated by the Saxon king at Canterbury ; but his Jurisdiction, though admitted in all the Saxon Territories, was not received by the Britiſh Priests or People in Wales.—In the reign

reign of Elizabeth the Bible and Common Prayer were first translated into the Welsh Tongue, and at that time the People are said to have adhered to the Rubrick and Constitution of the Church with a scrupulous exactness ; how far the Doctrines and Worship of Christianity may have deviated from their original purity, or how far the Welsh may have been affected by the refined Tenets of their English Neighbours, I shall not presume

to determine, at present I think there is every where much to be feared, from the Growth of Enthusiasm, the subtleties of Infidelity, and the Necessity, as well as Danger of Innovation.

Many Popish customs are still retained in Wales, particularly Offerings made to the Dead,—these Offerings must of course vary according to the Rank of the Persons deceased, as well as the Affection that is borne to their Memories ; I was at a
 Pau-

Pauper's Funeral where the Donations amounted to half a Crown, and I met with a Clergyman afterwards who had once received ninety Guineas.

Great complaints are made in many parts of this Country of the exorbitant Demands of Landlords, and that the Rent of Ground is now advanced much higher than it will bear;—such Complaints must of course be expected from the Sufferers, but I believe, they are here in
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Some instances made with reason; the landlords on the contrary may urge perhaps, that they act with strict Justice, and that they have a Right at least to try the experiment; but it should be remembered that the Extreme of Right is Wrong, and there is a Tribute of Humanity due from the Superior, that He should be always on a Certainty that he does not exact too much.

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National Characters should always be read with Exceptions; but if I must give my opinion of the Inhabitants of North Wales, I shall say, that the common people in general are civil and grateful, the Farmers rather slow and suspicious, a Few of the inferior 'Squires retain somewhat of the sottish and the brutal, but among the higher Ranks, I have found, in the same proportion as in Eng-

(r47)

England, lettered Society, hospitable Reception, and refined Address.

F I N I S.



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